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Teams

Watersheddings - Sunday 31st August, 1980.

OLDHAM

Cherry/White Hoops,
Blue Shorts.

Team From:

1. MARTIN MURPHY
2. GEOFF MUNRO
3. CLIVE HUNTER
4. BILL FRANCIS
5. CLIVE SULLIVAN
6. RAY ASHTON
7. KEN Gwilliam
8. ALEC ALEXANDER
9. ROGER O'MAHONEY
10. BRIAN LOCKWOOD
11. MIKE WORRALL
12. BOB BLACKWOOD
13. TERRY FLANAGAN

Subs From:

- BOB MORDELL
STEVE HERBERT
MIKE COWLEY
PHIL WARD
ALAN PLATT

REFEREE: Mr. A.W. Allen (York)

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Wednesday 10th September, 1980 - 7.30pm v WARRINGTON
Forshaw's Lancashire Cup - Semi-Final

CASTLEFORD

Yellow Shirt/Black Collar/Cuffs,
Black Shorts

1. GEOFF WRAITH
2. TERRY RICHARDSON
3. JOHN JOYNER
4. GARY HYDE
5. STEVE FENTON
6. PHIL JOHNSON
7. GARY STEPHENS
8. MAL REILLY
9. BOB SPURR
10. GARY CONNELL
11. KEVIN WARD
12. NEIL JAMES/PAUL ORR
13. JIMMY CRAMPTON

Subs From:

14. DAVID FINCH

TOUCH JUDGES:

Mr. H. McQuire (Whitehaven)

Mr. R.J. Percival (Warrington)



OLDHAM

CASTLEFORD

Watersheddings - Sunday 31st August, 1980

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Vice-Chairman: J. Bowden

Treasurer: K. Broadbent

Committee: E. Buckley, F. Diskin, J. Hall, D. Hulme, R. Ogden, K. Potter

Secretary: J. Chadwick

Coaching Staff: Graham Starkey (Manager), Terry Gorman (Asst. Manager),
Bill Francis (Player/Coach), Bob Welding (A Team Coach),

Brian Gartland (Colts Coach)

Professional Playing Staff

Adrian Alexander - Jimmy Arnold - Dennis Ashcroft - Ray Ashton - Bob Blackwood -
Brian Caffrey - Chris Charles - Barry Conner - Leslie Cook - Michael Coombes - Mike Cowley -
Glen Crehan - Pasquale D'Adamo - Stephen Dobb - Eric Fitzsimons - Kevin Flanagan -
Terry Flanagan - Alan Forster - Bill Francis - Andrew Goodway - Ken Gwilliam - Fred Hall -
Colin Hawkyard - Steve Herbert - Clive Hunter - Clive Jones - Paddy Kirwan - Phil Larder -
Steve Littler - Brian Lockwood - Paul Lowndes - Steve Lund - Ray Martland - Bob Mordell -
Geoff Munro - Martin Murphy - Gerrard Nolan - Colin North - Tony Ogden - Ian Ogden -
Roger O'Mahoney - Mike O'Rourke - Gareth Owen - Johnny Paterson - Alan Platt -
Gordon Pollard - Warren Ryans - Derrick Seabrook - Clive Sullivan - Dave Taylor - Ian Taylor -
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Groundsman: J. Walker **Asst. Groundsman:** W. Caine

CLUB RECORDS

Record Victory	67-6 against Liverpool City April 59
Record defeat	11-67 by Hull K.R. Sept. 78
Record attendance	28,000 v Huddersfield Feb 24th 1912
Record receipts	£4,897 v Leeds 3rd March 1968
Record transfer fee paid	£10,650 to Workington for Ike Southward March 1959
Record transfer fee received	£11,002: 10s from Workington for Ike Southward Jan 62
Record try scorer	Reg Farrar 49 tries 1921/22 season
Record goal scorer	Bernard Ganley 224 goals 1957/58 season
Record point scorer	Bernard Ganley 28 pts v Liverpool City April 59
First game	October 21 1876 v Stalybridge
Highest number of Points Scored	Bernard Ganley 2881
Most Appearances	Joe Ferguson 685
Most Tries	Pre 1900 Jack Hirst 233 Since 1900 Alan Davies 182

CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Championship Play-off winners:	1909-10, 1910-11 and 1956-57
Runners-up:	1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22 and 1954-55
First Division Champions:	1904-05
Second Division Champions:	1963-64
Rugby League Challenge Cup winners:	1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27
Runners-up:	1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24 and 1925-26
Lancashire Cup winners:	1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34
	1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59
Runners-up:	1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67 and 1968-69
Lancashire Championship winners:	1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57 and 1957-58
Runners-up:	1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24 and 1954-55
Lancashire Shield winners:	1975-76
Colts Premiership Trophy:	1979-80

HIGH-SPEED CAS!

CASTLEFORD'S visit to Watersheddings today is their first game here in 3½ years the last time we were in the First Division!

It was season 1976-77 and Oldham finished bottom with only 14 points from seven wins while high-speed Cas as they were then know ended up in third position. Their neighbours Featherstone, finished champions with 44 points and both St. Helens and Castleford had 39, Saints getting the runners-up spot by virtue only of a better scoring average.

Oldham lost 11-5 at Castleford on October 15, 1976 and 18-5 at Watersheddings on March 20, 1977. It is interesting to look at the Oldham teams on those two dates.

The team at Castleford was: Murphy, Elliot, Jackson, Wainwright, Lun, Blair, Treasure, Owen, K. Taylor, I. Taylor, Welding, Herbert, Reynolds. Subs: Barton, Ramshaw.

The team at Watersheddings was: O'Brien, Lund, Hill, Whittle, Barton, Treasure, Paterson, Owen, O'Mahoney, Hicks, I. Taylor, Herbert, Pollard. Subs: Munro, Ashcroft.

At the end of that season Oldham were relegated along with Barrow, Leigh and Rochdale Hornets and their places in the First Division were taken by Hull, Dewsbury, Bramely and New Hunslet. Castleford remained in the top flight but have never quite matched their lofty position of 1977, finishing tenth in 1978, seventh in 1979 and eleventh last season.

They scored 446 points in the First Division last season, averaging three tries a match. They scored a total of 91 tries to become the seventh highest try scorers in the division testimony to the fast and attractive style which has always been sought at Wheldon Road.

The side is very similar to last season's with Mal Reilly the player-coach and well-known names scattered throughout the side from Geoff Wraith at full back to Test man Gary Stephens at scrum-half.

The backs are fast and classy with Great Britain star John Joyner in the centre and good men around him such as wingers Terry Richardson and Steve Fenton and fellow centre Phil Johnson, who is playing stand-off at present because Bruce Burton is currently out of action.

The pack does not quite carry so many big names though boss Reilly can lay claim to being one of the finest loose-forwards this country has ever produced.

Second-row man Jimmy Crampton moved from Hull to Castleford as part of the Steve Norton deal while Paul Norton and Paul Orr form a likely-looking back row.

At prop Castleford play either George Ballantyne or Brian Hughes, who will be well remembered here at Watersheddings as the young forward we bought from Leeds in the Griff Jenkins era.

Brian was sent off at Halifax in the first round of the Yorkshire Cup and as the disciplinary committee was held on Thursday last he may be missing from the Castleford side today.

That area of Yorkshire covered by Castleford, Pontefract and Featherstone is a prolific breeding ground for young RL stars and Oldham have had many youngsters from there in the past, among them Paul Starbuck, Warren Ryans and Jonnie Paterson as well as the late Dickie Brown, who was always such a popular player here.

Steve Lund and Andrew Goodway are current Oldham players who hail from the Castleford area while Brian Lockwood will be especially keen to do well today as he spent much of his career at Wheldon Road.



BRIAN HUGHES, the Castleford prop, pictured in his Oldham days.

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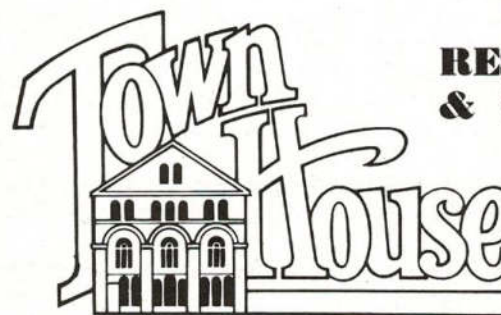
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FORSHAW'S LANCASHIRE CUP TOO EARLY?

MUCH of the impact of the Forshaw's Lancashire Cup is surely lost by playing the competition so early in the season.

The first two rounds are actually held BEFORE the start of the First and Second Division campaigns and this inevitably leads many spectators to regard the ties as little more than the season's curtain-raisers.

This is a pity. The county cup competitions still have something to offer and they may now assume more of their former importance with the passing of the Floodlit Tournament under a BBC economy drive.

In recent years the county cup competitions have played second fiddle to the Floodlit Tournament, the Player's No. 6 Trophy and the Challenge Cup, obviously.

Someone, somewhere had faith in them, however, and a year or two ago they attracted sponsorship, from Forshaw's Burtonwood Brewery in the case of the Lancashire Cup.

This year the sponsorship has been increased from £6,000 to £10,000 a record and there are plans for the association between Burtonwood and the Lancashire County authorities to continue for the next few years.

Perhaps the county leagues and the Rugby League proper could consider putting back the county cup competitions until the autumn, as they always used to be held.

Some of the congestion has gone now that there is no Floodlit Trophy. Apparently talks are going on with ITV for some sort of coverage on the other channel to replace the Tuesday night BBC spots in the Autumn.

But if the county cups could be accommodated in, say, late September, October, and early November I am sure they would get more publicity, draw bigger crowds and certainly provide a higher standard of play than that produced in mid-August.

Many players missed their club's ties because of holidays and those who did play were not really tuned up, after the close season, for the demands of a cup-tie.

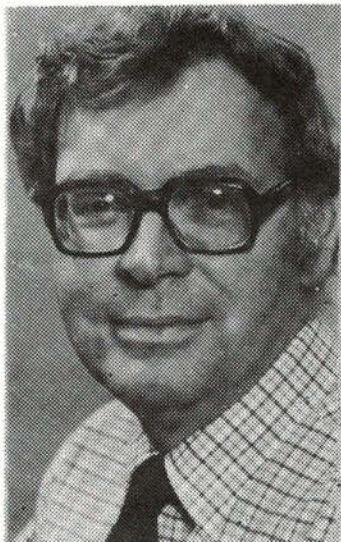
Many spectators, too, take their holidays in mid-August when there are still many counter-attractions on Sunday afternoons.

At Watersheddings last Sunday, for instance, the Oldham-Salford tie clashed with the CLL's Wood Cup final in which local side Crompton were bidding to win the trophy for the first time.

Many Oldham fans are drawn from the Shaw and Crompton areas and I am sure their loyalties must have been divided last Sunday.

Bowls is another fast-growing sport which is reaching the high-spots of its season at this time of year. In the Oldham-area alone there are about seven bowls leagues, hundreds of teams, and literally thousands of regular team bowlers.

Many of them are League fans but not until the bowls season is concluded!



By Roger Halstead
(Oldham Evening Chronicle)

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ALEX RULES O.K.

By Alex Givvons
(RL Grade 1 Referee)

The Rugby League Council are again concerned at the time taken to bring the ball back into play at the play-the-ball. This concern must be shared by all Rugby League followers who thrill at the rapid continuation in play which the quick play-the-ball brings, and despair at the ever increasing slow, ponderous, mauling sites we see.

The play-the-ball must involve at least 90% of the game and it is clear to see what a good tactical advantage a team can gain over the slow ponderous teams. What must we do to improve things?

The Referee: There are more than 20 offences which can occur around the play-the-ball, but it is in this phase of play that the Referee and Touch Judges must be on their toes. Because there are more dismissals through niggling at the play-the-ball than any other phase of the game. They must be ready to penalise either the tackler of the tackled player but because of the possible number of offences common sense must be applied. If the Referee has to be over the play-the-ball then he may have to forego standing on the 5 metre mark. This is when he has to work hard and plan out his positional play.

The Player: The onus is not only on the tackler to release his man and stand away, but the tackled player must play the ball without delay. Neither player should touch each other either by pushing or lunging-out.

Players often feign injury or that an arm is trapped, going to endless lengths to make the delay seem accidental.

Coaches: Insist that their players do bring the ball into play quickly and not lash out with their feet, or push his opponent away. If he is the tackler to stand away and not interfere. I am sure everyone would enjoy their rugby more and the spectacle would instantly improve. This is one phase of the game we can take a lesson from the Australians who excel at this phase of the game.

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SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

The Supporter Club Committee and Members would like to wish the team all the very best on their return to First Division Rugby,

A coach will be running to BRADFORD on September 7th anyone wishing to book on this coach will they please give there names at any canteen today.

Anyone wishing to become a Supporters Club Member can do so by applying at any canteen. **Price of membership is £1.00** and this includes a Supporters Club Diary and Badge.

The following Oldham RLFC items are on sale at the canteens or Social Club.

Metal Lapel Badges **60p**

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Starting on the first Sunday of the League programme, August 31st, B.B.C. Radio Manchester will be covering Rugby League live each week from 3.30 until 6 o'clock, with commentary and up-to-the minute match reports on 206 metres medium wave and 95.1 VHF.



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CLUB NEWS

AND NOW FOR WARRINGTON!

WHAT a finish we provided for our fans in the last few minutes of the Forshaw's Lancashire Cup second-round tie against Salford last Sunday.

And what a draw we got later in the evening when the draw on Radio Manchester paired us to meet Warrington again at home in the semi-final.

This will be the first time we have appeared in the last four since 1968 when we beat Salford at the Willows in the semi-final and went on to lose to St. Helens in the final.

Many hundreds of Watersheddings fans must have been glued to their radio sets last Sunday evening and many a heart must have skipped a beat when Widnes, the holders and favourites, were pulled out of the hat first.

Wigan followed and then Oldham fans had to wait anxiously for a few moments to discover whether we played Warrington at home or away.

We came out of the hat right and now look forward eagerly to what should be a cracking semi-final against a Wires side that did very well indeed to win at Barrow in round two.

At the time of writing these notes the date for the semi-final was not known. Lancashire County have ruled that the ties can be played on Tuesday, September 9th, Wednesday, September 10th or Thursday, September 11th.

We would like to play on the Wednesday night, September 10th (7.30) but the county RL have ruled that the semi-finals should not be played on the same night and that the club drawn out of the hat first Widnes should have first choice.

We are, therefore, dependent to some extent on what Widnes and Wigan do but, if at all possible, we will press for the Wednesday and full details will be announced in the Press as soon as they are available.

Congratulations, meanwhile, go out to the team for its fantastic fight-back in the last few minutes against Salford which turned a 7-13 deficit into a 15-13 victory.

...

THE congratulations of all Oldham fans will be offered, too, to our young loose-forward Terry Flanagan, who has earned a place in the 16-strong Lancashire squad for the opening county championship game against Cumbria at Barrow on Wednesday.

Terry, who is not 20 until November, has earned his selection on the strength of some great displays last season his first as a professional after turning pro from Saddleworth Rangers last summer.

He was voted our player-of-the-year last season and is now on the first rung of a ladder which, with luck, could take him right to the top in Rugby League Football.

The county championship games this season will be used as unofficial trials for the Test team to meet the New Zealanders, who will be on tour here in the Autumn.

Everyone who figures in the county games will be watched by Great Britain's new team manager, Colin Hutton, and his national coach, Johnnie Whiteley and they will all have chance to stake a claim for the Great Britain side.

...

Today's Match Ball presented by



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TALKING of the New Zealanders, you will have doubtless read in the Press that we are expecting the arrival any day now of a young centre-threequarter from Wellington.

Aged 22 and said to be a strong, stocky lad, the youngster will be here for the rest of the season and we are assured by our contract in New Zealand that he is a very good prospect, indeed. He has represented Central Districts, for whom he played against the Great Britain tourists on their trip Down Under last year.

Incidentally, we are looking for accommodation for the player in the area preferably with a family and anyone who can help is asked to contact the club office.

...

WE finally transferred prop-forward Dennis Ashcroft to Swinton last week-end after Wigan and Salford had shown a lot of interest.

It is not our policy to disclose transfer fees but it was a good deal for the Oldham club involving a player who has not been around the Watersheddings scene for more than a year.

We had earlier agreed terms with Salford but the player rejected the chance of a move to the Willows, hoping that Wigan his home-town club would complete a deal for him.

Wigan's offer did not come up to our valuation of the player and, in the end Swinton moved in quickly and Ashcroft decided to go back to Station Road, from where we bought him 18 months ago.



Terry Flanagan, who has been picked for the Lancashire squad, on the move against Salford.

Greenall Whitley

LOCAL TIME



Greenall's
LOCAL
BITTER

TOM WEBB's HISTORY OF CASTLEFORD RLFC

The original Castleford Northern Union Club was formed specially to enter the Yorkshire Senior Competition in 1896-97 when members of the local Rugby Union club wishing to play Northern Union Football broke away.

The club lasted until the end of the 1905-06 season. Another local club Castleford Half Acre Trinity then became prominent as a semi-senior club. A new Castleford club was formed about 1911 and gradually worked up from the junior ranks until it played with the senior club "A" teams and then applied for membership of the Northern Rugby League. The club was turned down by 23 votes to 5 in 1924 and just failed to obtain senior status the following year when the votes were 12 for and 12 against. Charlie Penfold then led the third application with the slogan "Distinction or Extinction" and this time the club was successful.

In 1926 the club played at Lock Lane but the following season was able to use the Wheldon Road ground previously the home of Midland League side.

Castleford Town. There was one small stand and the upper deck of a disused tramcar served as Press Box and the lower deck as refreshment room.

In March 1935 there was an attendance at the cup-tie with Hunslet of 27,000 with receipts of £1,440. This was remarkable as the population of the whole town was only 21,000. That season "Cas" defeated Huddersfield 11-8 at Wembley in the Challenge Cup final.

Some of the early players were Arthur Atkinson, Jim Croston, Bernard Cuniffe, Ted Sadler formerly with Oldham, Tommy Askin and Jim Bacon. Later the Hepworth-Hardisty period brought a plethora of local talent that took the club to the top.

On the managerial side Charlie Penfold, Walter Smith, Gideon Shaw, Phil Brunt, Len Garbett former player, referee and club secretary, Bill Broxup, Ron Simpson, Eric Clay and Alf Allaby were among a number of dedicated Rugby League men who took the club to many honours.

The Castleford club were runners up in the League Championship in 1938-39 and in that season were knocked out of the Challenge Cup by Oldham at Watersheddings. Three times the Challenge Cup has been won as has the Yorkshire League Championship while the club has won the B.B.C. 2 Trophy on four occasions and the Colts Challenge Cup once. The club has won the John Player Trophy on one occasion.

The record transfer fee was paid for Bruce Burton and the highest fee received was for Mal Reilly from Manly, Australia. "Sammy" Lloyd set up the scoring record when he registered 43 of the 88 points scored against Millom in a cup-tie in 1973.

For years past, Castleford has been producing stars from its own junior ranks and such as Roger Millward, Charlie Birdsall, Brian Lockwood and Steve Norton have been invaluable in gaining honours for other clubs.



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NEWS FROM THE RUGBY LEAGUE

RUGBY LEAGUE GUIDE:

The 1980-81 edition of the Rugby League Official Guide - the game's "bible" - is now available. The Guide contains all the Rugby League Bye-Laws, Fixtures, Club Dictionary, details of Associations and Referees, and is the ideal reference book for the coming campaign. Price: £1.00 + 35p p & p.

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1980-81 "BIG MATCH" PROGRAMMES:

During the forthcoming season there will be 12 issues of the "Big Match" programme series. The 1980-81 season will be highlighted by the visit of the New Zealand Tourists and there will be "Big Match" programmes for the three Tests and the Kiwis clash with Great Britain Under-24s.

The remaining programmes will be published for the traditional major domestic matches including the European Championship, the John Player Trophy Semi-Finals and Final, the State Express Challenge Cup Semi-Finals, and the Slalom Lager Premiership Final.

Copies of all 12 "Big Match" souvenir programmes can be ordered in advance for delivery in mint condition for a total of £5.40 including postage and packing.

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HUTTON & WHITELEY GREAT BRITAIN'S NEW PARTNERSHIP.

By Brian Batty
Daily Mail

Great Britain's new international partnership of supremo Colin Hutton and coach Johnny Whiteley have made an enthusiastic start to their new challenge. They hope to revive our international future to a pitch where we once again can overcome the Aussies although the odds looked stacked against them as the moment.

But first they have to see that Great Britain take care of the touring Kiwis this year with convincing wins and they are already scouring the counties seeking the talent. They have wasted no time in their search, covering around 500 miles on the first weekend of the series to look at three county cup ties.

Manager Hutton was, of course, in charge of England when with the help of coach Frank Myler they took the Jean Galia trophy in 1978.

One of the big advantages of his tie up with the experienced and respected Whiteley is that they are both based in Hull and are ready to give unlimited time to their task.

'It is very much an important factor that Johnny is not tied to a club which demands so much of his time,' says Hutton.

And the Great Britain sides, Under 24 side and England on their plate they need every minute they can spare to plan their programme.

Already they have been combining their talent spotting by looking at material available and good enough for both Great Britain Test and Under 24 sides.

They first teamed up in 1951 when full back Hutton left Widnes to join Hull and Whiteley was waiting for him at The Boulevard.

'I can see Colin driving up now in his red MG car and he has never looked back since coming to Hull,' says Whiteley.

They are both looking to Australia for a little help in beating the Kiwis. Colin has received some videos from his Sydney friend Jim Geraghty on the New Zealand - Australia games which are giving him a chance to weigh up the opposition. And when Johnny arrives in Sydney with the British Lions party for three weeks he plans to take a look at the coaching methods employed by top Australian clubs and pick the brains of the men who went to New Zealand in July.

I am sure the Kiwis, from what I have heard myself, will prove to be a useful party with plenty of fire and determination to back their fitness so it should prove a tough series.

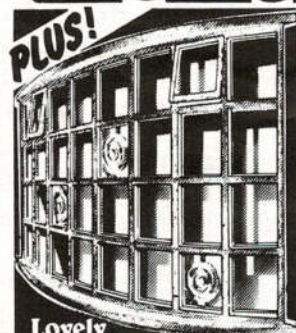


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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES 1980/81

Date	Opponent	F. A.
Aug. 3 Sun.	Rochdale (Charity Match)	12 - 15
Aug. 10 Sun.	St. Helens (Friendly)	12 - 30
Aug. 17 Sun.	Swinton (County Cup)	11 - 5
Aug. 24 Sun.	County Cup 2nd Round	
Aug. 31 Sun.	Castleford	
Sept. 7 Sun.	Bradford	
Sept. 14 Sun.	Featherstone	
Sept. 21 Sun.	Hull	
Sept. 28 Sun.	Leeds	
Oct. 5 Sun.	Leigh	
Oct. 12 Sun.	Widnes	
Oct. 19 Sun.	Workington	
Oct. 26 Sun.	Widnes	
Nov. 2 Sun.	Featherstone	
Nov. 9 Sun.	Bradford	
Nov. 16 Sun.	Salford	
Nov. 19 Wed.	John Player 1st Round	
Nov. 23 Sun.	Wakefield	
Nov. 30 Sun.	John Player 2nd Round	
Dec. 7 Sun.	Widnes	
Dec. 14 Sun.	Hull K.R.	
Dec. 21 Sun.	St. Helens	
Dec. 26 Fri.	St. Helens	
Boxing Day		
Dec. 28 Sun.	Hull	
Jan. 1 Thurs.	Warrington	
New Years Day		
Jan. 4 Sun.	Barrow	
Jan. 11 Sun.	Leeds	
Jan. 18 Sun.	Castleford	
Jan. 25 Sun.	Barrow	
Feb. 1 Sun.	Halifax	
Feb. 8 Sun.	Challenge Cup 1st Round	
Feb. 15 Sun.	Hull K.R.	
Feb. 22 Sun.	Challenge Cup 2nd Round	
Mar. 1 Sun.	Warrington	
Mar. 8 Sun.	Workington	
Mar. 15 Sun.	Halifax	
Mar. 22 Sun.	Leigh	
Mar. 29 Sun.	Wakefield	
Apr. 5 Sun.	St. Helens	
Apr. 12		
Apr. 17 Fri.	Salford	
Good Friday		
Apr. 20 Mon.		
Easter Monday		

'A' TEAM FIXTURES 1980/81

Date	Opponent	F. A.
Aug. 7 Thurs.	Higginsshaw (Friendly)	26 - 2
Aug. 14 Thurs.	Saddleworth Rangers	P
Sept. 3 Wed.	Salford	
Sept. 9 Fri.	Warrington L.C.C.S.	
Sept. 18 Thurs.	Swinton	
Sept. 25 Thurs.	St. Helens	
Oct. 2 Thurs.	Leigh	
Oct. 9 Thurs.	Rochdale Hornets	
Oct. 16 Thurs.	Widnes	
Oct. 18 Sat.	Whitehaven	
Oct. 25 Sat.	Workington	
Oct. 30 Thurs.	Wigan	
Nov. 8 Sat.	Blackpool	
Nov. 14 Fri.	Wigan	
Nov. 20 Thurs.	Salford	
Nov. 27 Thurs.	Swinton	
Dec. 11 Thurs.	Widnes	
Jan. 3 Sat.	Barrow	
Jan. 9 Fri.	St. Helens	
Jan. 17 Sat.	Whitehaven	
Jan. 31 Sat.	Barrow	
Feb. 5 Thurs.	Warrington	
Feb. 19 Thurs.	Blackpool	
Mar. 6 Fri.	Warrington	
Mar. 14 Sat.	Workington	
Mar. 19 Thurs.	Rochdale	
Mar. 26 Thurs.	Leigh	

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NEXT STOP AUSTRALIA FOR A PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY?

By Alan Burke
Public Relations Officer
Oldham Amateur Rugby League.

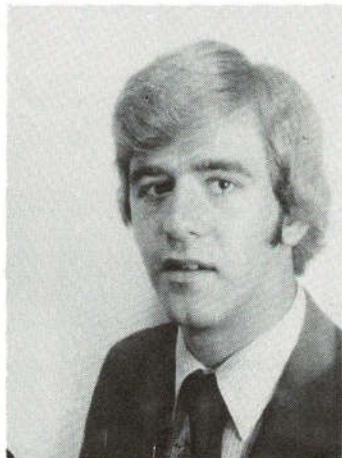
Amateur Rugby League has long since dispelled the old image of teams changing behind bushes in a local park and having to wash themselves in a solitary bucket of water at the end of a match. These days many clubs can boast their own social facilities, which not only provide players with an after-match drink, but which are constantly in use throughout the week and therefore attract even more people to the game.

The social side of Amateur Rugby League has now become an integral part of the sport with teams now entertaining visitors from all parts of the country, while tours both to and from France are now becoming almost commonplace. The olden days saw teams playing virtually all their matches throughout a season in their own town with the players sometimes able to go home before changing out of their kit. Nowadays, however, a team in Oldham can be playing on Humberside, entertaining opposition from Workington, and travelling to London, all within the space of a month. Oldham League teams are therefore again to the fore to ensure that visitors to the town are given true hospitality after their game, with several local sides now able to entertain their opposition in their own social clubs. The players of Saddleworth Rangers and Waterhead helped to construct their clubs' own facilities a few seasons ago, with both buildings having to be constantly extended due to the popularity of them on match-days and during the week. Salem Hornets have shown that it is not only the teams in the higher divisions that can lead the way off the field by also providing their own clubhouse. Indeed, the futuristic move by Salem has proved successful in more than one way, by providing the club with more much needed finances, and by attracting many youngsters to the club with the result that Salem can now field two very successful youth teams at Under-15 and Under-17 age groups.

Tudor Lodge, the Oldham League's most recent entrants and who compete in Division Six of the Pennine League, are also able to provide excellent hospitality to their visitors at their ground, with Ferranti and Saint Anne's also being in this position, and with other local sides hopeful of joining the list.

All this activity has, of course, only become possible since the formation of BARLA in 1973, with the Oldham League, along with all the other Amateur Rugby League areas, benefiting due to the more intense competition organised by the Association. The local league is currently enjoying a measure of success not achieved for many years, with the outlook for the future being very bright. To try and pinpoint the time when the Oldham league revival began, and indeed that of Rugby League in general in the town, would be very difficult, although the introduction of the annual matches between the Oldham schoolboys and the youngsters of the Catalan club in France in the early seventies must have helped to spark the fuse. The matches, between boys aged eleven to sixteen, have become mini-internationals for the local youngsters, whose play each season has steadily improved as the boys aim for a trip across the Channel. French fishermen permitting, it is hoped that the 1980 Catalan boys have arrived in this country in time to play a curtain-raiser to today's game, while on Wednesday they will be taking part in a "Day of Rugby" against Oldham's top schoolboy sides at the Saddleworth Rangers' ground in Greenfield, beginning at 9.30am.

B.B.C. Radio Manchester's weekly amateur Rugby League programme, "BARLA Reports" returns next Friday (6.30pm), with news of local events in the pennine and North-West Counties League. Today Radio Manchester are beginning their new style "Rugby League Special" programme (3.30pm - 6pm) in which reports on local amateur games will be broadcast at about 5.30pm.



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OLDHAM

Teams

Watersheddings - Sunday 31st August, 1980.

OLDHAM

Cherry/White Hoops,
Blue Shorts.

Team From:

1. MARTIN MURPHY
2. GEOFF MUNRO
3. CLIVE HUNTER
4. BILL FRANCIS
5. CLIVE SULLIVAN
6. RAY ASHTON
7. KEN GWILLIAM
8. ALEC ALEXANDER
9. ROGER O'MAHONEY
10. BRIAN LOCKWOOD
11. MIKE WORRALL
12. BOB BLACKWOOD
13. TERRY FLANAGAN

Subs From:

BOB MORDELL
STEVE HERBERT
MIKE COWLEY
PHIL WARD
ALAN PLATT

REFEREE: Mr. A.W. Allen (York)

CASTLEFORD

Yellow Shirt/Black Collar/Cuffs,
Black Shorts

1. GEOFF WRAITH
2. TERRY RICHARDSON
3. JOHN JOYNER
4. GARY HYDE
5. STEVE FENTON
6. PHIL JOHNSON
7. GARY STEPHENS
8. MAL REILLY
9. BOB SPURR
10. GARY CONNELL
11. KEVIN WARD
12. NEIL JAMES/PAUL ORR
13. JIMMY CRAMPTON

Subs From:

14. DAVID FINCH

TOUCH JUDGES:

Mr. H. McQuire (Whitehaven)

Mr. R.J. Percival (Warrington)

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Wednesday 10th September, 1980 - 7.30pm v WARRINGTON
Forshaw's Lancashire Cup - Semi-Final

KWIKPRINT - OLDHAM

CASTLEFORD



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